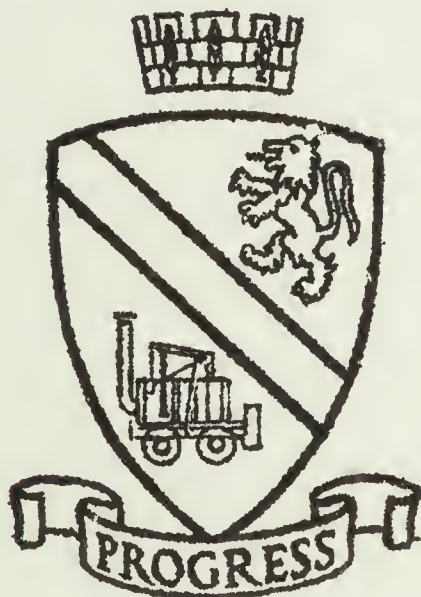


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# HETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1958





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# HETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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*Hetton House*

*Hetton-le-Hole,*

*Co. Durham.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hereby present my first annual report on this district.

Dr. Johnston retired on the 31st July, 1958 and this is my five months contribution together with the seven months which was under the aegis of Dr. Johnston.

Births - 325      Deaths - 195      Infectious Diseases - 49  
Poliomyelitis - Nil

In November in part of No. 5 area B.C.G. Vaccination was commenced - it is expected that in the Spring this area will be covered.

This is a form of preventative medicine which is most essential in Urban Districts, and it means that at least 80% of these children vaccinated are now, for a number of years protected against tuberculosis. By the time this artificial immunity has worn off they will have built up their own immunity by means of contracting a mild dose of tuberculosis whilst they were thus protected.

Examination of employees for the Sickness Benefit Scheme etc., was placed on a firm basis by fixing up an examination room together with the necessary equipment.

Some lectures on Old Age Surveys were given, and in No. 5 Area the Survey on "Comfort and Safety of Old Aged Pensioners Living Alone" was completed.

R.C.F. SMITH, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND HEALTH COMMITTEE 1958

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Chairman of the Council - Councillor E. Kent, J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee - Councillor J. Hudson, J.P.

Hetton Ward

Councillor Mrs. H. Ellison, J.P., 5 Dunelm Road, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor J. Ellison, 5 Dunelm Road, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor E. Kent, 11 Bedford Street, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor C. Long, 29 Springwell Terrace, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor W. Lowery, 2 Co-operative Terrace, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor G. Metcalfe, 31 Deepdale Street, Hetton-le-Hole.

Hetton Downs Ward

Councillor Mrs. C. Buckingham, 23 Fairy Street, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor G.W. Davidson, 49 Eskdale Street, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor T.G. Glassey, 20 Nicholas Street, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor L. Kelly, J.P., "Hillcroft", North Road, Hetton-le-Hole.

Councillor T. Lawson, 134 High Street, Easington Lane.

Councillor A. Logan, B.E.M., 4 Surrey Street, Hetton-le-Hole.

Easington Lane Ward

Councillor W.H. Bainbridge, 79 Elemore Lane, Easington Lane.

Councillor J. Hudson, J.P., 14 Tamar Street, Easington Lane.

Councillor F. Noble, 7 Cedar Crescent, Easington Lane.

Councillor H. Ramshaw, 14 Sheriff's Moor Avenue, Easington Lane.

Councillor Mrs. E. Smith, 26 Whitehill Road, Easington Lane.

Councillor J. Telford, 2 Brickgarth, Easington Lane.

Rainton and Moorsley Wards

Councillor W. Mallinson, 35 Lloyd Avenue, East Rainton.

Councillor H. Prest, 17 Moorsley Road, Low Moorsley.

Councillor R. Smith, 4 Handley Crescent, East Rainton.

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HETTON URBAN DISTRICT

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Area in Acres - 4,551 acres

Registrar General's estimate of resident population - 18,460  
mid 1958

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958) according to Rate  
Books - 5,617

Rateable Value - £121,920

Sum represented by a penny rate - £398

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Public Health Officers of the Authority

The Staff consists of :-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - Dr. L.A.M. Johnston. Whole time conjoint appointment. (See below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews), retired 31st July 1958, and Dr. R.C.F. Smith. Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - Mr. H.J.S. Murray. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Joint Examination Board, and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector under the Shops Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - Mr. J.R. Hall. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Joint Examination Board, and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR - Mr. P.W. Richardson. Holds Testamur of the Institute of Municipal Engineers.

The County Council on behalf of the Government pay half the salaries of the Medical Officer and the Public Health Inspectors.

The present Medical Officer is also the Medical Officer of Health for Houghton-le-Spring and Washington Urban Districts, Sunderland Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer for Area No. 5

Health Services Administered by County Council  
and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The following Health Services are administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Prophylactic measures	Child Welfare & Maternity
against Smallpox,	School Medical
Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria,	Welfare of the Blind and
and Tuberculosis	Handicapped.

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part II of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTORS. Are also appointed by and work under the directions of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture - being responsible for carrying out routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of said cow.



## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births and Birth Rate

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1958 was 325 as compared with 327 for 1957.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus :

	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate per 1000
Live (Legitimate	311	162	149	) of the estimated population - 17.7
Births (Illegitimate	14	6	8	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 17.1 for 1958.

In order to compare the birth rate based on the Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales a comparability factor of 1.02 giving a birth rate for Hetton Urban District of 18.05 compared with 17.1 for England and Wales.

Still Births - During 1958 there were 8 still births in the district.

	Total	Male	Female	giving a Rate of
Still (Legitimate	8	6	2	) 24.02 per 1000 total (live and still) births.
Births (Illegitimate	-	-	-	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.43 in the district.

### Deaths and Death Rate

After correction for outward and inward transfers, 195 residents of the Hetton Urban District died, being 112 males, and 83 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 10.5 the population being estimate at 18,460. That for England and Wales was 14.7

In order to compare the death rate based on the Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales a comparability factor of 1.33 giving a death rate for Hetton Urban District of 13.9 compared with 14.7 for England and Wales.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows :-

During 1958 there was 108 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 58 males and 50 females. Of these 2 males and 1 female did not normally reside in the area, therefore 56 males and 49 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 56 males and 34 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers is 195, being 112 males and 83 females.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally)

During 1958, 5 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 1.69 per cent. of the total deaths was of deaths of children under five years of age.

The following table shows :

1. Births, (a) males (b) females (c) total births (d) rate per 1000
2. Deaths (all ages)(a) males (b) females (c) total deaths  
(d) rate per 1000
3. Total increase of population

Year	BIRTHS				DEATHS				Total Increase
	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000	
1949	180	158	338	17.95	116	97	213	11.31	125
1950	158	173	331	17.71	137	111	248	13.27	83
1951	147	167	314	17.08	139	117	256	12.84	58
1952	165	138	303	16.53	113	100	213	11.62	90
1953	137	152	289	15.7	114	105	219	11.9	70
1954	167	143	316	21.67	118	110	228	12.3	88
1955	168	150	318	17.25	109	79	188	10.2	130
1956	134	158	292	15.8	106	110	216	11.17	76
1957	173	154	327	17.7	89	85	174	9.4	153
1958	168	157	325	17.7	112	84	195	10.5	130



### Deaths from Puerperal Causes

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis.

Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from

Other Purperal Causes     ...     ...     ...     ...     0.00

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year

5 children died during 1958 before attaining the age of one year, being 3 legitimate males and 2 legitimate females.

During 1957, 8 children died during this age period.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1949-1958.

Year	All Infants per 1000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1949	35.5	36.25	90.90
1950	48.3	50.16	166.66
1951	38.22	39.09	-
1952	33.0	33.67	-
1953	24.2	25.08	-
1954	44.3	45.16	-
1955	22.01	22.22	-
1956	37.67	38.5	-
1957	24.4	21.9	125.0
1958	15.3	16.07	-

The death rate of children under one year of age per 1000 live births in England and Wales for the year ending 1958 was 25.4

Of the 5 infants who died under one year of age the cause of death was in 2 cases due to prematurity, giving a percentage of 20.0 due to this cause. 1 or 10.0 per cent of the total deaths under one year was due to pneumonia.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 195, 2.7 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under the age of one year. Of these under one year of age 60.0 per cent. were under one week.

The following table shows the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	15 - 25 years	25 - 45 years	45 - 65 years	65 - 75 years	75 yrs & over	Total
Easington Lane	3	1	1	1	1	3	19	22	15	45
Hetton	2	1	1	1	1	3	18	15	18	57
Hetton Downs	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	16	18	46
Rainton & Moorsley	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	13	9	29
TOTALS	5	4	4	4	4	7	55	66	60	195

There were no deaths from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), giving a death rate of 0.00 per 1000 live births.

Table showing deaths from Chief Infectious Diseases

Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs.	Total
1949	213	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1950	248	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1951	256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1952	213	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
1953	219	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	229	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1955	188	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	216	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1957	174	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	195	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



# Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1958

Causes of Death				Male	Female
All Causes				112	83
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...		
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...		
4.	Diphtheria	...	...		
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...		
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...		
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...		
8.	Measles	...	...		
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases				
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...			8	
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...		3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...		2
14.	Other malignant, & lymphatic neoplasms			13	11
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...		2
16.	Diabetes	...	...		1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system			22	18
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	22	16
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	9	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	
22.	Influenza	...	...		
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	4	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	7	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system			2	
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea			2	
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...		
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			4	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	
34.	All other accidents	...	...	3	
35.	Suicide	...	...		1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	1	



## Deaths from Tuberculosis

There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1958 being equivalent to a death rate per 1000 population of .16 from the pulmonary form and 0.00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table

Year	No. of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 Population from Pulmonary T.B. England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 Population from Pulmonary T.B. Hetton Urban District	No. of deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 Population from Non-Pulmonary T.B. England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 Population from Non-Pulmonary T.B. Hetton Urban District
1949	5	.403	.27	0	.054	.00
1950	4	.321	.21	1	.043	.05
1951	4	.275	.21	2	.041	.05
1952	7	.212	.38	1	.028	.05
1953	2	.179	.10	1	.022	.05
1954	3	.160	.16	1	.019	.05
1955	3	.131	.16	0	.015	.00
1956	1	.109	.05	0	.012	.00
1957	1	.095	.05	0	.012	.00
1958	3	Not available	.16	0	Not available	.00

## Heart Disease

Heart Disease being inclusive of Coronary Disease, Angina, Hypertension with Heart Disease, and Other Heart Diseases, accounted for 62 deaths, being 32 males and 30 females. This is equivalent to 3.17 of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.36 per 1,000 population.

## Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System

In addition to the above deaths a further 40 being 22 males and 18 females were due to Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, the majority being due to Cerebral Haemorrhage.

The number of deaths in these two groups has increased, the two groups accounting for the deaths of 102 persons, being 54 males and 48 females as against a total of 71 persons in 1957.

	Males	Females	Total
Coronary Disease, Angina	22	16	38
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Diseases	9	13	22
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	22	18	40
	<u>54</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>102</u>

This is equivalent (taking the groups together) to 52.3 per cent. of the total deaths and a Mortality rate of 5.4 per 1000 population.

## Cancer

44 deaths - being 24 males and 20 females, were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 22.56 per cent. of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 2.38 per 1000 population.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to VLNS and CDA and Cancer in the Hetton Urban District, and the death rates from these diseases in the years 1949-1958.

Year	Number of Deaths			Death Rate per 1000 Population		
	All Causes	Cancer	VLNS & CDA	All Causes	Cancer	VLNS & CDA
1949	213	39	not available	11.31	2.07	not available
1950	248	27	108	13.27	1.44	5.7
1951	256	27	117	12.84	1.41	6.3
1952	213	29	99	11.62	1.58	5.4
1953	219	39	105	11.9	2.12	5.7
1954	228	39	116	12.3	2.11	6.2
1955	188	40	86	10.2	2.16	4.6
1956	216	30	111	11.17	1.62	6.02
1957	174	33	71	9.4	1.79	3.85
1958	195	44	102	10.5	2.38	5.4



NOTE - VLNS: Vascular Lesions of Nervous System; and  
CDA : Coronary Disease, Angina, Hypertensions  
with Heart Disease, and Other Heart Diseases)

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1958 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site	Males - Ages	Females - Ages
Bronchus, Lungs,	48,45,48,37,59,70,69,70,50	
Cervix		85.
Liver	71.	
Stomach	74,75,77.	67,73,68,64.
Rectum	64.	73,70,63.
Breast		68,67,84.
Pancreas	84.	
Prostate	78,65,71.	
Bladder	76,64.	56
Uterus		61
Pharynx		74
Lip	73	
Kidney		57
Colon	79	55,45,58,63,
Oesophagus	70	81
Anus	55	

- - - - -

Prevalance of, and Control over Infectious  
and Other Diseases

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During the year 1958, some 49 cases of infectious diseases including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as occurring in the district. This shows a decrease on the figure for 1957 - which was 356. There were 7 cases of measles and 3 cases of whooping cough, as compared with 241 measles and 64 whooping cough in 1957.

School Notification of Disease

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.



Comparison of number of cases of infectious diseases notified during decade 1949-1958.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	37	12	11	23	15	7	2	5	1	17
Diphtheria	8	2	3	2		1	1	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia		1	1	1						
Pneumonia	56	49	45	60	67	28	11	25	27	10
Erysipelas	4	5	1	1	1	2	1			
Pulmonary ) Male	10	5	15	7	6	6	6	2	4	5
Tuberculosis ) Female	7	15	10	3	7	7	5	7	6	4
Non-Pulmonary ) Male	1	1	3	1			1			2
Tuberculosis ) Female	1	3		2	2		1	3	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2									
Meningococcal infection	1		3	2		1			1	
Typhoid Fever										
Small Pox										
Dysentery	93	2				1				
Measles	173	247	315	82	262	5	509	4	241	7
Whooping Cough	172	27	79	52	81	27	106	33	64	3
Para-typhoid Fever			1							
Ac. Encephalitis										
Ac. Poliomyelitis		1			2	2	1	1	9	
Ac. Polio-Encephalitis										
Food Poisoning										
Malaria										
TOTALS	565	370	487	236	444	87	644	81	356	49

### Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1958, under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The following table shows the various age periods for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred, as compiled from local statistics.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
35 - 45	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	4	1	2	2	-	1	-

The following table shows the number of new notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis according to sex for the years 1949-58 inclusive.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total All Forms
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
1949	10	7	17	1	1	2	19
1950	5	15	20	1	3	4	24
1951	15	10	25	3	-	3	28
1952	7	3	10	1	2	3	13
1953	6	7	13	-	2	2	15
1954	7	7	14	-	-	-	14
1955	6	5	11	1	1	2	13
1956	2	7	9	-	3	3	12
1957	4	6	10	-	3	3	13
1958	5	4	9	1	2	3	12

## Occupation

Of those suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis 1 was a Cadet Nurse, 1 Machinist, 1 Miner, 1 Loco Driver, 1 electrical engineer, 1 housewife and 3 unemployed



The following are particulars of the number and type of houses provided by the Council in pre-war and post-war periods.

The number and types of Pre-war Houses are as follows :-

<u>Estate</u>	<u>A 1</u>	<u>A 2</u>	<u>A 3</u>	<u>A 4</u>	<u>B 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Broomhill	100	30	-	-	-	130
Eppleton	-	10	22	2	-	34
Hetton	-	135	180	-	-	315
Peat Carr	-	167	57	14	-	238
Easington Lane (Old Site)	-	29	154	-	36	219
Prospect	20	63	25	9	-	117
East Rainton	4	152	57	5	-	218
Moorsley	12	-	-	-	-	12
Springwell Terrace	-	24	12	-	-	36
Mill Terrace	-	8	4	-	-	12
	<u>136</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>1331</u>

Houses completed between the end of the War and the 31st December, 1958.

<u>Estate</u>	<u>A 1</u>	<u>A 2</u>	<u>A 3</u>	<u>A 4</u>	<u>Sp. 6 BR.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Caroline Street	-	10	-	-	-	10
Pemberton & Richard Streets	16	-	-	-	-	16
Peat Carr	-	54	70	2	-	126
The Lawns, Eas. Lane	24	-	-	-	-	24
Prospect	2	59	96	8	-	165
Moorsley	18	32	56	4	-	110
Moorsley (55 Houses)	12	34	9	-	-	55
Low Downs	-	36	36	4	-	76
Gargles Farm Estate	58	124	80	6	1	269
Brickgarth	24	58	31	-	-	113
Murton Lane	4	6	-	-	-	10
Mill Terrace	-	2	-	-	-	2
East Rainton	-	12	2	-	-	14
Shaws Row	4	14	10	-	-	28
Derwent Street	10	29	13	-	-	52
Hetton House Grounds	-	-	1	-	-	1
Moorsley	-	11	3	-	-	14
Prospect	2	-	-	-	-	2
High Street	10	14	-	-	-	24
	<u>184</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>407</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1111</u>

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1958 Showing Age Incidence and Distribution

Notifiable Disease	Number of cases Notified												Total	Total number of cases Notified in Each Ward					Deaths	Cases Removed to Hospital	Number per 1000 Population
	At Ages - Years													Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington Lane	Moorsley & Rainton	Total			
	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over									
Scarlet Fever						13	4						17	5	2	5	5	17		2	.92
Diphtheria																					
Puerperal Pyrexia																					
Pneumonia		1				2		1	2	1	2	1	10	4	4	2		10	6		.54
Erysipelas																					
Pulmonary )Male								1		1	3		5	1	3	1		5	3		.27
Tuberculosis )Female								1		2	1		4		3	1		4			.22
Non-Pulmonary )Male			1										1	1				1			.054
Tuberculosis )Female									1	1			2	1	1			2			.11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																					
Meningococcal infection																					
Typhoid Fever																					
Small Pox																					
Dysentery																					
Measles	1	2	1		3								7	1	1	3	2	7			.37
Whooping Cough		1	1			1							3	3				3			.16
Para-typhoid Fever																					
Acute Encephalitis																					
Acute Poliomyelitis																					
Acute Polio-Encephalitis																					
Food Poisoning																					
Malarias																					
Totals	1	4	3	-	3	16	4	3	3	5	6	1	49	16	13	13	7	49	9		2.7





Houses completed during 1958

<u>Site</u>	<u>A 1</u>	<u>A 2</u>	<u>A 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Moorsley	-	11	3	14
Prospect	2	-	-	2
High Street	10	14	-	24
	12	25	3	40

- - - - -

1. Summary of work done by the Public Health Inspector's Department during the year 1958.

New Houses Completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	40	-	40
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By Private Persons	-	5	5

Total No. of Inhabited Houses - 5,457

2. CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

A. Formal Action

- (i) No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action 62
- (ii) No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action 6
- (iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed. 158
- (iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation -

B. Informal Action

- (i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIRS

3. No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts :

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (a) As a result of informal action            | 34 |
| (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice | -  |
| (c) By Local Authority in default of owners   | -  |

4. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949

No. of  
separate houses

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority                        | 9  |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority                         | -  |
| (c) Total No. of applications approved since the inception of scheme | 76 |

GENERAL SUMMARY

	No. of Inspection tions	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after Notice	Legal Proceed- ings and General Remarks
Housing:					
Public Health and Housing Act ... ..	247	46	-	34	
Overcrowding .. ...	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient... ..	-	-	-	-	
Defective ... ..	43	21	-	21	
Drainage ... ..	52	9	-	9	
Water Supply ... ..	165	4	-	4	
Food Premises ... ..	306	19	-	19	
Shops Act ... ..	63	-	-	-	
Dairies ... ..	-	-	-	-	
Slaughter Houses :					
Public ... ..	-	-	-	-	
Private ... ..	2295	6	-	6	
Tents, Vans etc, ... ..	6	-	-	-	
Offensive Trades ... ..	-	-	-	-	
Factories & Workplaces	69	1	-	1	
Keeping of Animals	9	6	-	5	
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	8	4	-	4	
Offensive Accumulations	29	2	-	2	
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	49	4	-	3	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	198	21	-	21	
Totals	3539	143	-	129	

Ashpits converted into water-closets ... .. -  
 Ash-closets converted into water-closets ... .. 3  
 Total number of water-closets in district ... 5906  
 Total number of ash-closets in district ... 123  
 Total number of ashpit-privies in district ... 17



## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### Water Supply

The year under review saw little change in the nature of the water supplied throughout the Urban Area and generally the supply was satisfactory in both quality and quantity. All dwellinghouses in the area were supplied direct with water from the main.

The water supplied in the area originates from three sources, namely, Hetton, Hetton Downs, and Easington Lane Wards are served by the Council's own undertaking which is derived from water pumped at Eppleton Colliery into a storage reservoir there where it is treated by the chloromine method and then distributed, there also being a storage reservoir at Easington Lane, this being required to serve some of the higher portions of that area. A considerable amount of water is also taken in bulk from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company to implement the local supply. The local water which is obtained from deep limestone strata is very hard, and therefore not in all respects eminently suitable for domestic use, but it is invariably pure at the source, therefore, both as regards quantity and quality it was possible to maintain a satisfactory supply throughout 1958, with the exception of one instance in November of the year when the supply was found to be unsatisfactory in the Lown Downs Area, and immediate action was taken to remedy the situation.

The Durham County Water Board supply the East and Middle Rainton area direct and they maintained a satisfactory supply here throughout the year which was unaffected by any drought rationing scheme.

The Moorsley area is supplied by the National Coal Board. The water, which is largely spring water, is gathered at Low Moorsley and pumped to a storage tank at High Moorsley, from thence a supply feeds High and Low Moorsley by gravity. Certain outlying farms are also supplied directly by the National Coal Board and the water was generally found to be satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year, although it is found that the quality is likely to be temporarily affected after heavy rainfall.

Samples of water were taken by the Surveyor's Department, of the Council's own undertaking from the Eppleton Reservoir, 7 samples being taken of the raw water and 50 samples of the water after chloromine treatment, these being submitted for bacteriological examination and



samples for chemical analysis were submitted to the Public Analyst at two monthly intervals, 6 samples being examined.

The Health Department take weekly samples of water from the National Coal Board, and Durham County Water Board supplies and also from part of Easington Lane and Hetton which are served by water supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. These samples are submitted for bacteriological examination and periodical samples of these waters are also taken for chemical analysis. The following table will make evident the widely differing characteristics of the four waters supplied to the area as it sets out results of a typical chemical analysis from each of the supplies concerned, namely :

	Hetton U.D.C.	N.C.B.	Sunderland and South Shields Water Co.	Durham County Water Board
	P a r t s	P e r	M i l l i o n	
Total Solids dried at 180° C.	995	649	1015	100
Chlorine as chlorides	55	33.7	53.3	8.9
Free ammonia	0.04	None	0.04	Trace
Albuminoid ammonia	Trace	None	None	Trace
Nitrogen as nitrates	5.70	2.10	1.80	0.50
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 80° F.)	0.8	1.1	0.3	4.6
Total hardness	679	347	586	70
Permanent hardness	411	147	326	54
Temporary hardness	268	200	260	16
Lead & Copper	None	None	None	None
Iron	0.1	Trace	Trace	0.1
Appearance and colour	Clear & Exceeding pale yellow	Clear & almost colourless	Clear & almost colourless	Clear & pale yellow
Smell & Taste	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.
Microscopical examination of deposit	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.	Sat.
pH Value	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.1

The bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Sunderland, free of charge and the Health Department is indebted to Dr. Crone the Principal there, for the ready co-operation and advice he has always offered.

The Health Department submitted during 1958, 165 samples for bacteriological examination, only 3 of these being substandard and these to a minor extent. Check samples subsequently taken from the same points, generally after local flushing of the mains affected, proved to be satisfactory.

### Drainage and Sewerage

All sewers throughout the Urban area with one exception drain to the Council's Glebe Sewage Works at Rainton Bridge. These works, which were put down in 1937 to modern standards, continued to function satisfactorily.

Throughout the year housing developments in the district made extensions to soil and surface water sewers necessary and all new drainage work with the exception of the Council's housing sites was subject to examination and testing by the Health Department.

The sewage Works and sewers were subject to the routine half yearly treatment for the destruction of rats as in previous years.

During 1958, 9 informal notices were served requiring the remedy of defects in house drains and it was not necessary in any case to follow up an informal notice with a Statutory Notice.

### Closet Accommodation

At the end of the year under review houses and premises in the Urban District were served by sanitary conveniences of the following types, namely :-

Water Closets	...	...	...	5906
Ash Closets	...	...	...	123
Ash-pit Privies	...	...	...	17
Chemical Closets	....	...	...	3

The above figures have more or less remained static over the past year, there being, if anything, a slight drop owing to the number of



houses demolished exceeding those built in replacement, practically all the ash-closets and privies listed serving houses which are either subject to Clearance or Demolition orders or scheduled to be so dealt with in the near future, thus rendering the conversion of the privy uneconomical.

Three ash-closets were converted to water closets during the year by owners without service of notice and without any claim being made for the appropriate grant.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Health Department, four lorries with drivers and eight fillers are employed on the work and an additional lorry and driver are employed part-time for the collection of trade refuse and salvage, this emanating mainly from business premises and the driver also carries out the sorting and baling of this material.

A relay system is in operation for the collection of house refuse and works well, enabling the lorries to operate a shuttle service to and from the tips, and also ensuring that the fillers are constantly employed. It is, however, still necessary in some scattered areas to split up the teams and use the slower method of working. Despite the considerable amount of new building the demolition of older houses has resulted in the number of premises to be dealt with remaining fairly static, but there is no doubt that the work of the collectors has been made more onerous owing to the various factors arising in the layout of post war housing estates which invariably necessitate bins being carried for increasing distances and although wheel bin carriers are provided to ease the work of the men in this respect, the many steps which have to be negotiated prevent these being used to the best advantage. Having regard to the conditions which previously existed where more often than not it was possible to carry out collections simultaneously from both sides of a back street the tempo of the work has been considerably slowed.

Ashbins are in almost general use for refuse storage and a scheme is in operation for the renewal of defective bins, the collectors reporting daily any bins which require attention and the owner of the property is given the opportunity of purchasing a new 24" x 18" bin at a reasonable cost, the average price of those supplied during the year being 26/-. This results in a standard size of bin being in use



throughout the district and also very few dilapidated bins are to be seen. The number of bins renewed following this method, apart from Council houses, during 1958 was 67. Again during the year it was found that some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the renewal of bins in Council houses and periodically a time lag occurred before a new bin was supplied resulting in many occupiers being without a bin for some weeks before renewal was effected. The bins in use have a reasonable lease of life although the modern bin is not generally of very substantial construction. The workmen are blamed for shortening the life of bins by rough handling but there is a good number of householders who have abused their bins by using them for slops or as an incinerator, this causing early deterioration of the metal. Although a large size bin is standardised, namely, 24" high by 18" diameter, even this is found, in some cases, inadequate to store a weeks refuse, in fact, despite the number of modern Council houses built and the modernisation schemes which have been completed to a very large number of the older colliery houses, including the installation of modern fireplaces, the refuse yield from the district has not appreciably decreased. The problem of the stone content of coal which is almost invariably sorted out and cast upon the adjacent street when the coals are delivered arose from time to time during the year but it can be said that judging from the experience of adjoining areas this problem has never been acute in the district and certainly the quantity of stones put out are considerably less than those found in by-gone years. Of course, stones deposited in this manner cannot be considered in any sense household refuse and are therefore not the responsibility of the scavenging service to collect, although in practice large quantities are collected to preserve the amenities of the area.

A trade refuse scheme is in operation, a nominal charge being made for collection and a large number of tradespeople in the area have availed themselves of the scheme, the shop waste provided mainly wrapping paper and containers and this is sorted and baled and disposed of to the paper mills. The price obtained for the materials has steadily diminished in recent years and it is doubtful whether collection and handling would be an economical project if the scheme was not assisted by the contribution from the trade refuse collection charges. During 1958, 22 tons 7 cwt. of waste paper and light materials were disposed of, this providing an income of £146 14s. 4½d.

The method of disposal for all house refuse is by tipping and whilst it is possible to obtain from time to time small quantities of



low grade soil or rubbish for covering, it is virtually impossible to obtain sufficient to exercise full control. Fortunately, however, the regular use of a tractor and a scraper to consolidate and level the surface is found to be extremely effective, making it possible to keep the tips tidy and nuisance free and as a result large areas have been rapidly restored to agricultural use with surprisingly good cropping results.

During the year the tips in use were situated at the Hazard Colliery, a tip covering a wide spread area situated amongst old colliery spoil heaps which has been in use for many years, Moorsley Quarry, a very large excavation which was filled up in a surprisingly short space of time and towards the end of the year was virtually completed with the intention of utilising the site as a playground, and a Quarry in Elemore Woods, which was being used at the request of the National Coal Board in order to provide support to faults in the quarry walls which were occurring owing to subsidence. A good amount of useful tipping space was left at this latter tip at the end of the year under review.

During the year under review we were in the fortunate position of having no pressing shortage of tipping area, as farmers who were anxious to have land re-claimed made available sites for this purpose. Tipping space is, however, likely to prove an acute problem in the future, as owing to the widespread building operations in the past few years the question of finding sites sufficiently remote from houses to be nuisance free is becoming more difficult. At present we are attempting to deal with too many tips simultaneously, it is much preferable to concentrate on a particular site and get it filled, levelled and restored to agriculture rather than to disperse refuse over a number of sites. In this matter, however, we have to meet the wishes of the land owners who generally offer the tip free on the understanding that the filling is proceeded with expeditiously. Our greatest difficulty in conserving tipping space and keeping tips tidy is caused by contractors who indiscriminately dump loads of rubbish, more often than not on the tip surface which has been freshly levelled, and whilst from time to time this practice has made it necessary to forbid the use of the tips to outsiders, it is recognised that some tipping space for refuse of this kind must be provided and therefore tipping is permitted in a restricted area of each tip, a nominal charge being made for every load of rubbish dumped. Each driver submits a daily return of loads collected although it is not possible owing to lack of weighbridge facilities



to weigh these. During 1958 the scavenging teams dealt with an average weekly total of 113 loads being an approximate total tonnage of 15,000 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons per house per annum.

The number of premises dealt with by the service was 5,885 and the approximate cost per house was £1.84

### The Shops Act

The Chief Public Health Inspector acts as Inspector under the Shops Act and shop premises received regular routine visits and inspections throughout 1958.

Improvements in shop premises to bring them in compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations continued during the year under review and although the considerable amount of work done in this respect was primarily intended to improve the hygienic handling of food, in almost every case it resulted in improved conditions for the employees. The larger shops are without exception equipped with satisfactory sanitary accommodation, rest room, clothes storage and washing facilities for their staff and all food shops have been provided with a constant supply of hot water.

Four exemption certificates are in force with respect to small lock-up shops where space is too restricted to provide sanitary accommodation on the premises, one of these being situated in Hetton and three in Easington Lane, all four shops, however, are provided with hot water supply and washing facilities and public conveniences are reasonably accessible.

No difficulty was experienced in the enforcement of closing hours and also no complaints were received regarding assistant's working hours, it is, in fact, found that the majority of shopkeepers observe far shorter opening hours than those permitted under the Act.

The widespread adoption of refrigeration cabinets for the storage of a large variety of frozen foods gave rise to a small problem, inasmuch as the sale of many of these articles was not permitted on Sundays, and of course many of the shops using them were open for the sale of other commodities on Sunday. A warning letter was sent, therefore, to all the shopkeepers affected and no infringements were detected.



## Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites

The Urban Area has no problem with regard to this type of dwelling as there are no recognised camping sites and no trouble was experienced during the year with regard to temporary structures of this nature being occupied for dwelling purposes. From time to time, however, two sites are occupied as fairgrounds by showmen. During their use for this purpose they are supervised to ensure that adequate arrangements are maintained for water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse disposal. The occupiers are invariably found to be very co-operative and no difficulty was experienced with maintaining the sites in a satisfactory condition. The seasonal passage through the district of gypsy caravans usually used by itinerant hawkers gave rise to complaints from time to time. The powers for dealing with this type of dwelling are very restricted but it was always found possible to get them moving on within a reasonable time.

## Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools in the Urban area although there would appear to be a definite demand for such an amenity. An open air pool, however, owing to the climatic conditions generally prevalent would have only a very restricted use and the provision of a covered swimming pool which could be adapted for other purposes and become a source of revenue out of season would be most desirable, particularly in view of the shortage of halls in the area, but the expense of erecting and equipping such a building and its subsequent maintenance would be considerable.

## Schools

It was not necessary during 1958 to close any school owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases and, as in recent years, it was also not necessary to carry out any scheme for the treatment of scabies. A very high standard of hygiene was maintained in all schools throughout the area and the Health Department are indebted to the teachers for their ready co-operation at all times when enquiries affecting the welfare of pupils had to be made.

The Central School Kitchen which was situated at Easington Lane was regularly inspected and it was invariably found that a very high standard of hygiene was maintained.

## Public Houses, Halls, and Cinemas

These premises are inspected at regular intervals and in fact certificates are issued regarding the sanitary conditions found at all licenced houses for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster Sessions. The issue of an adverse certificate would immediately create a difficulty in obtaining the renewal of the licence. The Public Houses and Clubs in the area are all well equipped with washing facilities in the bars and the general standard of hygiene maintained is very high. The picture is continually changing with regard to this type of premises as frequent schemes of modernisation are carried out with resulting improvements in the sanitary conveniences.

## Food Inspection

Improvements in the shops continued to be carried out during the year in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations and all food premises now comply with requirements regarding provision of hot water and washing facilities for staff, and the larger shops are all equipped with staff restrooms. The majority of the food shops in the area are however small general shops with the proprietor living in the house attached with, almost invariably, a single assistant employed, and there is, therefore, no difficulty with regard to sanitary accommodation and other amenities for the workers.

Regular inspections are carried out and a large amount of tinned goods are examined, a good quantity of which have to be condemned owing to their unfitness for consumption. Condemned goods of this type, most of which are in an offensive condition and have no salvage value are collected and disposed of on the refuse tips.

The following table shows the number and type of premises where food is sold and prepared.

School Kitchens	...	...	...	1
Colliery Canteens	..	...	...	2
Cafes or Snack Bars	...	...	...	4
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	11
Butchers	...	...	...	17
Fruiters	...	...	...	10
Bakers & Confectioners	...	...	...	17
Grocery	...	...	...	30
General	...	...	...	44
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	3
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	...	...	...	57



The Public Health Inspectors examine all animals slaughtered for human consumption and as there are 13 private slaughterhouses in operation and a considerable amount of week-end slaughter takes place, a good amount of overtime working is necessary to maintain 100% inspection.

The incidence of disease found has in recent years become increasingly smaller as generally a very good class of animal is killed. Where it is found necessary to condemn carcasses and edible organs they are treated with a strong green dye and disposed of to By-Product Manufacturers who guarantee that the meat is not used for human consumption.

The slaughterhouses in use are in reasonably good condition and well maintained but in view of the uncertain position of the private slaughterhouse, major alterations have not been encouraged, although the majority of butchers are willing and anxious to improve their premises and would without doubt be prepared to carry out comprehensive schemes of re-construction once they are assured of a reasonable return for their outlay. A very high standard of hygienic conditions is maintained with an undoubted improvement in the condition and keeping qualities of the meat compared to that put out under conditions of centralised slaughtering, where the meat undoubtedly suffered from inadequate resting and hungering of the animals before slaughter and transport immediately following slaughter before the carcass had sufficiently cooled and set.

Labour difficulties are gradually resolving and the position with regard to trained slaughtermen was considerably improved during the year under review, the majority of the butchers appearing to be able to find suitable staff. A shortage is, however, still evident, it being apparent that suitable recruits are still not coming forward in sufficient numbers. All slaughtermen are subject to annual licences issued by the Council and at the end of 1958 the number holding such licences was 51.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	2584	114	2	4463	1853	-
Number inspected	2584	114	2	4463	1853	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	712	15	-	57	42	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	27.55	13.15	-	1.47	2.20	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	51	26	-	-	14	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.97	23.68	-	-	.75	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total weight of meat condemned 2 tons 5 cwt. 2 qrs. 0 st. 2 lbs.



## Milk and Dairies

Two organisations deal with the distribution of the whole of the liquid milk in the area, namely, The East Durham Co-operative Dairies Ltd., who serve the customers of the Co-operative Societies and distribute Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk. The milk is stored overnight at a modern milk depot which is equipped with cold storage chambers situated in the Hetton Downs Ward and there is a subsidiary depot situated in the Easington Lane Ward which, although it is not equipped with cold storage, provides satisfactory accommodation for the short period during which the milk is held there.

The Houghton Dairymen's Association, who were originally a combination of existing milk retailers and farmers in the area, market Pasteurised, Channel Island Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk together with a quantity of raw Tuberculin Tested milk. They previously carried out the pasteurisation process on a good quantity of milk at their own plant in Houghton-le-Spring, but this was closed down and the pasteurised milks they sell are now processed by the Milk Marketing Board, and the raw milk collected direct from local farmers.

These organisations also sell a fair amount of bottled sterilised milk and bottled orange juice and dairies situated mainly in the Sunderland area supply a good amount of sterilised milk to the general shops who retail it, 41 shops being registered for this purpose.

During 1958 the Health Department took weekly samples from all milks retailed in the area and these are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Sunderland, who carry out examinations free of charge. In this connection 275 samples were submitted for examination during the year under review, the results being surprisingly good, as only one of the total number proved to be in some degree unsatisfactory. Apart from the customary examination for purity, the raw Tuberculin Tested milk is also examined as a routine precaution for the presence of Br. abortus but was found to be free from this organism.



## Ice Cream

There are three premises in the Urban District at which ice cream is manufactured, one being situated at East Rainton (and this is operating to a diminishing extent) and two being situated in the Easington Lane Ward. All the establishments are equipped with plant capable of producing ice cream in compliance with the Heat Treatment Regulations and are inspected at frequent intervals. There are, in addition, a large number of retail premises mostly situated in small general shops, the proprietors of which find it more convenient to purchase pre-packed ice cream in bulk from the factory, all these shops are equipped with refrigeration cabinets for storage. The premises are registered and inspected at frequent intervals and numbered 57 at the end of the year. Samples taken for examination almost invariably gave satisfactory results, in fact, during the year 94 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, only seven of these proving to be unsatisfactory.

A very considerable amount of ice cream is sold by itinerant hawkers from motor vans, these are sampled as often as possible but extreme difficulty is found in getting samples at times convenient for transmission to the Laboratory and the Health Department has, of course, no knowledge of, or control, over the manufacture of the ice cream sold in this way.

## Factories and Workshops

These premises were regularly inspected and it was found that a generally good standard of hygiene was preserved, it however being necessary to serve some informal notices which resulted in improvements being effected with regard to closet accommodation and ventilation, cleansing and floor drainage, and the provision of means of escape in case of fire. The following table gives particulars of inspections carried out by the Department and the results obtained.

## Bakehouses

At the end of the year under review there were six bakehouses in operation in the district and although two are well equipped

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to Health  
(including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	18	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	45	51	26	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	5	-
Total	56	75	37	-

2. Defects found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	12	12	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	6	6	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient	1	1	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	11	11	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-
Total	31	31	-	-



factory bakehouses the remainder were operating only to a minor extent, principally for the production of pies and confectionery. In addition six general shops were registered for the manufacture of pies only. These premises were regularly inspected and a highly satisfactory standard of cleanliness was found.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin

It was found necessary to carry out disinfection work for the clearing of bugs and other vermin in the under mentioned premises, namely :-

Council Houses	...	...	...	25
Private Houses	...	...	...	13

and in addition one lot of infectious bedding was destroyed. There has been a steady decline in infested premises in recent years and most of the cases dealt with were for the eradication of black beetles, although a small number of fairly heavy infestations by bed bugs were found and satisfactorily dealt with. Beetle infestations were successfully treated by using a powder composed of pyrethrum which has an immediate "knock down" effect and D.D.T. which remains potent for a considerable time and provides lengthy protection. The results were in some cases spectacular but there is a hard core of older houses where periodical treatment is necessary as the lodgement of the vermin is so deep seated that only considerable work of repair and improvement to the structure would affect complete clearance.

Fortunately bed bug infestation is becoming increasingly rare, as it presents a more difficult problem, requiring rather protracted treatment. When found, infestations are first dealt with by fumigation, gamexane being found to be most effective for this purpose. This treatment kills off adult vermin and makes the premises reasonably safe for workmen or householders to proceed with the stripping of walls, this being insisted upon in all but the most superficial infestations, it is, in fact, often necessary at times to strip woodwork, this being dealt with by thorough application of a blow lamp. The second treatment is carried out by spraying to deal with vermin which have subsequently incubated, followed by a final treatment to ensure complete clearance. The complete co-operation of the

householders is essential and they are expected to keep the walls stripped for at least six months after treatment and to immediately report any isolated vermin which is subsequently found, as stray survivors will rapidly recommence the whole cycle of re-infestation. In bad cases adjoining houses are also always inspected as effective fumigation is prone to cause vermin to migrate, particularly in older property where ready access is available from house to house.

### Rodent Control

The administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 is the responsibility of the Health Department so far as surface infestations are affected and they therefore deal with infestations arising in dwellinghouses, business premises, the Council's refuse tips and agricultural land, although as regards the local farmers a very large percentage of them are under contract with the County Agricultural Committee who do a good job in keeping down infestations on farm land. The Highways Department undertake the treatment of sewers.

All dwelling houses are treated free of charge but the cost of the work carried out at business premises or on agricultural land is recovered on a time and material basis, the charges however, are invariably very small and considering the importance of this service, which helps greatly to check the spread of disease, and prevents the wastage of a very large amount of foodstuffs, the actual cost of the operation is negligible as all preliminary survey work and a good part of the treatment is carried out by the Health Inspectors assisted by a part-time workman who operates under their supervision. The Council's property, refuse tips etc., are kept under constant observation and the cost of this work is met by the local authority. It may, in fact, be said that a very great proportion of the complaints received regarding infestations do arise from Council houses, often newly built. It is true that often the infestations occur on re-developed areas due to the old drainage systems not having been taken out or effectively sealed off, nevertheless it is reasonable to expect property of this type to be more or less rat proof.

The principal poison bait in use nowadays is based on Warfarin. This has been found highly effective, especially with mice who do



not readily take other poisons and it is convenient in use and stated to be safe, although it is used with extreme caution, particularly where the treatment of piggeries is involved. It is taken more readily by rats than the older poisons such as zinc phosphide, red squills, and arsenic, although it is occasionally necessary to use this when special circumstances arise. The refuse tips are treated with "cymag" gas when weather conditions make this safe and practicable.

The sewers are periodically treated by the staff of the Highways Department, it being extremely important that this treatment should be carried out at the correct intervals to coincide with the peak breeding seasons as when this work is delayed for any reason there is a noticeable increase in the underground population which is reflected by a spate of complaints regarding surface infestations, almost invariably traceable to the heavily infested condition of the drains.

In the course of the work a very large number of drains are tested by smoke and found to be faulty and the resultant repair eliminates the source of infestation.

### Atmospheric Pollution

During the year under review there was again a noticeable improvement in the atmospheric conditions in the area. The Health Department operate a deposit gauge and a sulphur dioxide gauge for checking conditions, the results being examined monthly and tabulated. The main source of atmospheric contamination in the area is no doubt domestic smoke as a large proportion of the population are in receipt of concessionary coal and fires, both owing to the necessity for cooking facilities, and also because of the climatic conditions, are almost invariably burnt throughout the year. Other factors are the colliery spoil heaps, there being three active heaps in use at Eppleton Colliery, Elemore Colliery and Nicholsons Pit, East Rainton.

With the co-operation of the National Coal Board the whole system of refuse disposal at Eppleton Colliery was remodelled some years ago and the refuse is now disposed of in a very satisfactory manner, the soil on the site being excavated and pushed back and the waste then spread in shallow layers, levelled, and then covered with the soil. The work is done by dumpers and the passage of



these over the site provides effective consolidation to the tip surface and this method gave rise to no nuisance at all although regular tests are made to check the internal temperature of the heap.

The heap in use at Elemore Colliery during the year was of conical shape, always a difficult type of heap to control although the National Coal Board spared no effort to control this heap and an adequate supply of water was made available and spraying was carried out. It gave rise to some nuisance during the year, it being obvious that the deep seated fire had become beyond control and the abandonment of the tip here was advisable. The matter was taken up by the Council with the National Coal Board and after some negotiations the Board agreed to abandon this tipping site and institute a new form of tipping in layers which should give rise to no further trouble and towards the end of the year preliminary work for this scheme was put in hand. This Colliery, also from time to time gave rise to serious nuisance from dust and grit as there was a dry cleaner in use which despite everything possible being done to effect improvement appears virtually impossible to operate without a dust nuisance. The furnace chimney was also found to emit a considerable amount of grit, very heavy deposits being found in the immediate vicinity at times. This trouble was no doubt due to inefficient stoking and the type of fuel used and a definite improvement would be effected by the provision of a grit arrestor. In this connection however, the National Coal Board promise that within the reasonably near future it was intended to electrify this colliery and this would provide a solution to the whole problem.

Increasing attention was given to the legislation regarding clean air and there is no doubt that having regard to the fact that all the Council's postwar housing schemes are already equipped with approved appliances and the large number of houses which have been improved in recent years were similarly equipped, a smokeless zone could quite readily be formed at comparatively small expense. There are two difficulties, however, to overcome in this respect, first, a large proportion of the tenants are in receipt of concessionary coal and would not be prepared to sacrifice this and use smokeless fuel, and secondly, although the houses are equipped with appliances suitable for the use of burning smokeless fuel, few, if any, are supplied by mains gas and the difficulty of smokeless ignition arises.



The department would again like to acknowledge the valuable assistance given by Mr. C. Bride, Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who from time to time inspected the colliery heaps in company with the Chief Public Health Inspector, his technical advice and help proving of great assistance to the Council in dealing with the problems which arise in connection with pit heaps.

### Marine Store Dealers

There are three marine store dealers registered in the district and regular inspections are carried out of their yards. These dealers are in a comparatively small way of business and their premises give rise to little nuisance, it only being necessary to draw attention to the necessity for cleaning up deposits of broken glass which could prove a source of danger to trespassing children, and also some complaint was made regarding the burning of rubber waste by a dealer who ceased this practice following action by the department.

There are however a good number of itinerant rag and bone dealers who come from outside the urban district and generally patrol the housing sites. They are also kept under observation principally with a view to detecting offences in respect of the exchange of forbidden articles with juveniles for rags etc.

### Care of the Aged

The Chief Public Health Inspector has acted as Hon. Secretary of the Hetton Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee since its inception. This Committee was established under the auspices of the Council some years ago and acts as a coordinating body for five Ward Committees who directly supervise the welfare of the aged people in the area. The work of the Committee naturally involves quite a considerable outlay and as their aim is to be entirely self-supporting, a considerable amount of time is devoted to organising schemes for the raising of funds, the money being put to good use by a large band of devoted voluntary workers who carry out excellent work in entertaining, visiting and overlooking the welfare of the old people. The sick are visited regularly and taken gifts of flowers etc. A chiropody scheme has been in force some years





20.00  
10.00  
10.00